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Minutes Staff Senate Meeting, January 10, 2013

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Staff Senate Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2013
Arkansas Union 507-508

Members Present: Barbara Abercrombie, Stephanie Adams, Ana Ayala, Jeremy Battjes, Denise Bignar, Donnie Blagg, Kelly Carter, Elizabeth Cunningham, Lonnie Deavens, Cosmo Denger, Heather England, Lisa Frye, Kabrina Gardner, Michael Gibbs, Andy Gilbride, Melynda Hart, Jeremy McAtee, Ryan Miller, Sarah O'Brien, Henry Rowe, Roman Ruiz, Sue Donohue Smith, Eric Specking, Eric Vaught, Trish Watkins

Members Absent: J'onnelle Colbert-Diaz, Mary Coonley, Angela Davis, Roy Hatcher, Natalie Kramer, Chris Nixon, Eve Owens, Autumn Parker, Lisa Turner

- I. The meeting was called to order by chair, Jeremy Battjes at 9:32 a.m.
- II. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adopt the agenda as presented.
- III. Roll Call – Sarah O'Brien
- IV. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the meeting minutes with correction.
- V. Update on Short Term Disability – Barbara Abercrombie;
 - There are 925 classified staff who make less than \$30,000 – 111 Agriculture; 226 Auxiliary; and 578 UA Fayetteville.
 - There are 611 classified staff who make more than \$30,000 – 48 Agriculture; 104 Auxiliary; and 456 UA Fayetteville [this is 40% of employees over the threshold].
 - The Chancellor and the Consultants chose \$30,000 as a good benchmarking figure.
 - Short Term Disability pay that an employee receives is taxed.
 - If an employee wants to purchase additional coverage up to their salary level, those premiums can be pre-tax payments.
 - Barbara will find out from Richard Ray if an employee on Short Term Disability can stop all voluntary deductions during the time s/he is on STD.
 - The 14-day wait period for Short Term Disability to begin is calendar days.
 - If the threshold was raised to \$35,000, this would include an additional 184 employees, leaving 427 classified staff over the limit [27% of employees would be over the threshold then].
 - Barbara will research the increase the University would have to pay for the increase in the threshold and email Jeremy.
 - Jeremy will determine if this is feasible and produce the Staff Senate's recommendation to be sent to Senators over the listserv before submitting it to the Executive Committee.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Awards – Denise Bignar; the deadline for Team Award nominations is January 18, 2013. Currently, there is only one nomination.
- b. EOQ - Kelly Carter; the deadline for Employee of the Quarter nominations is January 18, 2013. Currently, there are only three nominations.
- c. Parking & Transit – Jeremy McAtee; Dickson Street will be closed beginning Monday, January 14th from Harmon Street to Garland Avenue. Only authorized vehicles will be permitted access. There will be signs posted, but no gate will be built. UAPD will be in force and giving warnings during the first week, but citations will be issued thereafter.

VII. Around the Senate

- a. Sue Donohue Smith thanked those senators that participated in the dining survey in November.
- b. Jeremy Battjes reminded Senators to pay attention to absences from meetings as several Senators are reaching three absences.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah O'Brien